

Upcoming Changes to the Community Rating System (CRS)



FEMA recently announced plans to issue a 2021 Addendum to the current 2017 Community Rating System (CRS) Coordinator's Manual that will become effective in January 2021.

The 2021 Addendum will include new prerequisite requirements that affect all CRS communities in New Hampshire. New credit opportunities and other changes to simplify credit and reporting requirements will also be included.

A summary of key updates included in the Addendum and other recent program changes is provided in this fact sheet. See page 2 for upcoming webinars and contact information to get more details about the changes. And don't forget to **subscribe to the CRS Newsletter** for the latest information as it becomes available!



New Freeboard Requirement (Applies to Class 8 [or Better] CRS Communities)

A new Class 8 prerequisite will require communities to adopt and enforce at least a 1-foot freeboard requirement (including equipment or mechanical items) for all residential buildings constructed, substantially improved, and/or reconstructed due to substantial damage, throughout its Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) where Base Flood Elevations have been determined. Communities should have received letters from ISO regarding this new prerequisite. See **Frequently Asked Questions on Class 8 Freeboard** for more information.

Changes to Elevation Certificate Prerequisite/Activity 310

(Applies to All CRS Communities)

The CRS Elevation Certificate prerequisite currently requires that communities maintain Elevation Certificates for all new construction/Substantial Improvements that occurs in Special Flood Hazard Areas.

The 2021 Addendum will require that Elevation Certificates are submitted annually as part of the Recertification review rather than just at cycle verification visits. The submitted certificates must meet the existing 90% accuracy threshold.

Also, communities will need to create written Elevation Certificate management procedures. This new required Activity 310 credit element (ECMP—38 credit points) replaces the existing EC element. ISO is currently developing a procedures template to help communities complete this requirement.

New Process for Repetitive Loss Properties (Now in Effect)

To fulfill requirements for CRS cycle verification visits, communities with repetitive loss properties need a current list of these properties, as do new communities applying for CRS entry.

As part of a new process now in effect, ISO will no longer distribute NFIP repetitive loss data to CRS communities. Instead, communities must request repetitive loss lists directly from the FEMA Region I office. Before this data can be provided, communities must have an Information Sharing and Access Agreement (ISAA) in place with FEMA. Also, any corrections to a community's Repetitive Loss Update Worksheet must now be submitted directly to FEMA by the community, rather than through ISO.

Other Notable 2021 Addendum Changes

- ◆ Several existing activities are being updated to include new opportunities for credit:
 - ◆ **Activity 370 (Flood Insurance Promotion)**
 - ◆ **Activity 510 (Floodplain Management Planning)**
 - ◆ **Activity 610 (Flood Warning and Response)**
- ◆ The impact adjustment in **Activity 450 (Stormwater Management)** for stormwater management regulations (element SMR) and watershed management (WMP) credit will be simplified. Other clarifications for watershed master planning credit will also be made.
- ◆ Section 404 of the manual, **Sea Level Rise Projections and the CRS**, will be updated to reflect changes in available sea level rise projections.

Upcoming CRS Webinars

September 16th, 1pm - 2pm

Changes to Activity 310 (Elevation Certificates)

October 13th, 1pm - 2pm

Changes in the CRS: The 2021 Addendum to the CRS Manual

November 17th, 1pm - 2pm

Changes in the CRS: The 2021 Addendum to the CRS Manual

For a complete list of CRS webinars and registration instructions, visit <https://crsresources.org/training>.

More information about these changes is available in the [April/May 2020 CRS newsletter](#). For questions, contact [Gene Kohls](#), the New Hampshire ISO/CRS Specialist. Or join us (virtually) at our next NH CRS Users Group Meeting in September 2020 (Contact [Samara Ebinger](#) of OSI for details.)